INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) In the Department of Commerce, the Government has set up a Committee on Reduction of Transaction Costs and Simplification of Procedures under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Foreign Trade.

(b) and (c) Each exporter has to fill in different forms at various stages of the export cycle so as to adhere to the regulatory and monitoring framework prescribed by different Departments/Ministries and to enable the Government to collect trade statistics on exports.

(d) and (e) Simplification of Procedures is an ongoing process and the Government reviews these Procedures normally at the time of annual review of Foreign Trade Policy.

Establishment of MPEDA Offices world over

167. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to establish offices of MPEDA in different parts of the world to enhance the image of Indian marine products;

(b) how many such overseas offices the MPEDA have presently;

(c) what are the proposals to open new overseas offices by MPEDA;

(d) what is the view of Government on this issue; and

(e) what would be the details of annual cost of running an additional office of MPEDA in Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are two overseas offices of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) at Tokyo in Japan and New York in U.S.A.

(c) MPEDA does not have any proposal to open any new overseas office.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.